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Typed or Printed Name	Maria J. Sousa	
Signature		Date May 14, 2003
<b>AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116</b>  Address to: Box AF Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231	Attorney Docket Confirmation No.	GUID012CON 5237
	First Named Inventor	Lawrence W. Hu, <i>et al.</i>
	Application Number	09/900,503
	Filing Date	July 6, 2001
	Group Art Unit	3732
	Examiner Name	Smith, Jeffrey A.
	Title	SURGICAL RETRACTOR PLATFORM BLADE APPARATUS

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action dated March 14, 2003 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before June 14, 2003. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Applicants have attached to this amendment a "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made" wherein all of the amendments requested here are put forth with underlining and bracketing.

Applicants submit that the amendments set forth below raise no new issues. Rather, the amendments place the claims in form for allowance or in better form for appeal. Entry of these amendments is thus respectfully requested.

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AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 8 as follows:

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GROUP 3600

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MAY 22 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

8. (Twice Amended) A surgical retractor blade, said retractor blade comprising a polymeric body having a first end adapted to attach to a separate, complete driving mechanism, a second end, a channel adapted to engage one side of an incision in a patient, and a rail extending along at least a portion of said polymeric body.